

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-49 will have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 50-85 will have been added for consideration by the Examiner. Applicant submits that the cancellation of claims 1-49 should not be considered an indication of Applicant's acquiescence as to the propriety of the outstanding rejections. Rather, Applicant has cancelled claims 1-49 and added new claims 50-85 in order to advance prosecution of the present application and obtain early allowance of claims.

In the outstanding Final Official Action, claims 1-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over ICHIHASHI et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,903,262) in view of BALLHORN (U.S. Patent No. 6,598,230). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for at least the following reasons.

ICHIHASHI is directed to an interactive television system. As shown in the embodiment of ICHIHASHI in FIG. 3, the interactive television system includes a broadcasting station 1, an interactive television receiver 3, a server 4 and a network service 5. The interactive television receiver 3 receives a broadcast program and a teletext script from a broadcast station 1. The teletext script includes additional information linked with the broadcast program. By manipulating a television remote controller 308, a recipient of the broadcast program and teletext script can interact with the teletext script via the server 4 and the network service 5. In particular, a multimedia teletext receiver 33 of the interactive television receiver 3 is connected to a public telephone line by a modem 34 of the interactive television receiver 3. Identification data

and control data may be transmitted via the modem 34 to the server 4. The server 4 provides a response to requests by the interactive television receiver 3 at the direction of the network service 5. The server 4 also collects a response to requests by the network service 5 from the interactive television receiver 3.

In contrast to the above-noted features of ICHIHASHI, claim 50 recites a data management method, where content identification is being stored in a database in association with information recipient identification when an information manager receives the content identification and information recipient identification. In the method of claim 50, the content identification is linked in the database to reference data associated with the content selected by the information recipient. Access to the information manager in claim 50 is permitted from a second communications device distinct from the first communications device, and the database enables access to the reference data linked to the content identification from the second communications device.

ICHIHASHI does not disclose at least the above-noted features recited in claim 50. Rather, the interactive television system of ICHIHASHI is directed towards allowing a user of the interactive television 3 to interact with the server 4 and the network service 5. There is no teaching in ICHIHASHI of storing content identification in a database in association with information recipient identification, nor of providing access to any device other than the interactive television 3. Rather, ICHIHASHI is directed to almost real-time provision of additional information to the interactive television 3 from the server 4 upon a request being made for the information, such that there would be no purpose

in storing such information in the manner recited in claim 50, nor any purpose in providing access to such information to a communications device other than the communications device which sends such information to the server 4 (i.e., access to such information to a communications device other than the interactive television 3).

Applicant further submits that there is no proper motivation to modify ICHIHASHI to include such features, whether from BALLHORN or any other document. In this regard, ICHIHASHI is directed to near real-time interaction and there is no reason to modify ICHIHASHI to store the interaction in a database or to allow access to the interaction from another communications device other than the first communications device. Rather, the cited portions of ICHIHASHI at col. 21 are merely directed to processing information received from the interactive television 3 and "accumulating, modifying, or updating local database (L-DB) 42A, master database (M-DB) 43A". This is not the features recited in claim 50 of "the content identification being stored in a database in association with the information recipient identification when the information manager receives the content identification and information recipient identification, and the content identification being linked in the database to reference data associated with the content selected by the information recipient", nor is there any reason to provide such features when the stated purpose of ICHIHASHI is merely to accumulate, modify or update the data in a database. Nor is there any motivation to modify ICHIHASHI to enable access to reference data linked to the content identification from a second communications device.

In any case, even the combination of ICHIHASHI and BALLHORN would not result in the combination recited in claim 50. Rather, BALLHORN is merely directed to allowing a user to retrieve music contents from a music database based on a selected title. Modification of ICHIHASHI with the teachings of BALLHORN would merely result in allowing a user in ICHIHASHI to retrieve content based on a content identification. This is presumably already provided by ICHIHASHI insofar as ICHIHASHI is directed to an interactive television system. However, such a combination would not result in storing content identification in a database in ICHIHASHI in association with an information recipient identification when an information manager receives the content identification and the information recipient identification. Further, this would not result in the content identification being linked in such a database to reference data associated with the content selected by the information recipient.

In any case, such a combination would also not result in permitting access to the server 4 from a second communications device (i.e., other than the interactive television receiver 3), or enabling access to the reference data linked to the content identification from the second communications device.

Accordingly, at least for each and all of the numerous reasons set forth above, Applicant submits that claim 50 is allowable over the combination of documents applied in the Final Official Action. Applicant further submits that independent claims 75, 84 and 85 are allowable for reasons similar to the above-noted reasons for the allowability of claim 50, insofar as these claims recite similar features.

Applicant additionally submits that dependent claims 51-74 and 76-83 are allowable at least because each depends, directly or indirectly, from an allowable independent claim, as well as for additional reasons related to their own recitations. Applicant particularly submits that these dependent claims recite numerous particular features related to the various recitations of claim 50 and 75 which are not disclosed, suggested or rendered obvious by the combination of documents applied in the Final Official Action.

For at least the above-discussed reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is improper, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection. Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

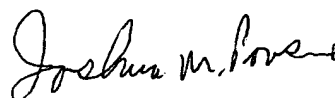
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Final Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate. Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so.

Any claims cancelled in this amendment, which have not been specifically noted as being cancelled to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been cancelled for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Keiichi KOSHIBA

 Joshua M. Povs...  
Reg. #42,086

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Bruce H. Bernstein  
Reg. No. 29,027

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1950 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191  
(703) 716-1191